

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 TRSE-00 MC-02 /066 W
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R 180858Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4303

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 5286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UR, KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI ARMS PURCHASES FROM RUSSIA

REF: A) KUWAIT 5244 (NOTAL)

B) MOSCOW 18041

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DCM & ME THIS MORNING TO RELATE CONVERSATION WITH GOK FORMIN DECEMBER 18 ON ABOVE SUBJECT. FORMIN CONFIRMED THAT KUWAIT WILL BUY ARMS FROM USSR BUT DECLINED SPECIFY QUANTITIES AND TYPES. CLAIMED GOK WOULD RELY ON EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN TECHNICIANS TO SERVICE SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND THAT ONLY LIMITED NUMBER SOVIET "TECHNICIANS" ON INDIVIDUAL SERVICE CONTRACT BASIS WOULD BE ADMITTED TO KUWAIT IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASES.

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2. DCM HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS SUBJECT DECEMBER 18 WITH NEW SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR WHO ALSO CONFIRMED KUWAITI PURCHASE WITH "HARD

CURRENCY" OF SOVIET ARMS. ALSO DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF TYPES OR QUANTITIES INVOLVED, BUT SAID SALES COULD EVENTUALLY HAVE "BIG VALUE". MAINTAINED THAT NO SOVIET TECHNICIANS WOULD BE STATIONED IN KUWAIT AND THAT STAFF AT SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE INCREASED. ALL NECESSARY TRAINING WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN USSR. WHEN QUERIED RE POSSIBLE IRAQI REACTION, SOURCE SIMPLY STATED IRAQI'S SHOULD NOT OBJECT SINCE "WE HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES."

3. AS INDICATED REFTEL (A), DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO HAS CONFIRMED GOK PURCHASES WHICH INDICATES THAT PYRLIN (DEPUTY CHIEF MFA M.E. COUNTRIES DIVISION) COMMENT TO EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT DEAL STILL IN TALKING STAGE PROBABLY LESS THAN TRUTHFUL. (REFTEL B).

4. LOCAL BRITISH AMBASSADOR CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS KUWAITI MOVE IN GULF AREA AND IS SEEKING ASSESSMENT FROM LONDON AND AREA POSTS. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO WISH COMMENT ON PROBABLE LOCAL IMPACT KUWAITI DECISION TO PURCHASE ARMS FROM SOVIETS. REFTEL (A) BEING REPEATED FOR INFO. STOLTZFUS

SECRET

NNN

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